JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1982

Lasca Leaves

Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

NEW CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

RICHARD RAY was elected new president of the California Arboretum Foundation at the annual meeting Sept. 29.

The native of Chicago moved to Woodland Hills with his wife and their six children in 1968 and shortly thereafter became actively involved with the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum through his horticultural publishing ventures. He is closely associated with Walter Doty, retired editor of *Sunset* magazine, who planned the Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens at the Arboretum sponsored by the magazine. Through his publishing endeavors came the first financial support for the Garden for All Seasons.

Mr. Ray sees the primary role of CAF in the future as two-fold – providing more monetary support for the Arboretum and encouraging more visitors to visit the gardens to take advantage of the many opportunities that are available.

"Cuts in allocations from LA County will force the CAF to increase its contribution to Arboretum operations just to maintain the present level of services," he said. Possible new funding sources he suggested are enthusiastic promotion of the Special Benefactor program and

Richard Ray

a drive by present CAF members to recruit new members.

He thinks more visitors can be attracted to the Arboretum both by increasing the number of special events such as the recent Santa Anita Flora and Garden Exposition and by upgrading existing exhibits on the grounds. Involvement in horticultural publishing has made Mr. Ray particularly aware of two existing Arboretum attractions that have the potential for drawing more visitors – the Garden for All Seasons and the Plant Science Library.

He noted that the Garden for All Seasons attracts many gardeners looking for innovative planting ideas that can be applied in the home garden. This volunteer-tended garden is currently being expanded because of its great attraction to visitors.

"I'd also like more people to know about the library," he said, "because our library is a good one, perhaps the best on the West Coast."

PARSONS FOUNDATION SUPPORTS ARBORETUM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

TWO GRANTS TOTALING $34,000 will enable the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to extend the summer internship program at the garden into the fall, winter, and spring school sessions.

Richard Ray, newly elected president of the California Arboretum Foundation, announced that the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation of Pasadena supplied the first grant of $25,000 and the California Arboretum Foundation then augmented it with $9,000 raised by the group.

Last summer a grant from the Institute of Museum Services was used to initiate an internship program with 16 horticulture students placed in the three gardens operated by the Department. After evaluating benefits to both the stu-

dents and the gardens, officials decided that they warranted extending the program to a year around work-study course.

Most of the students earned college credit, so their work assignments were planned to give them horticultural field experience to supplement their classroom studies. During the nine-week internships they rotated through various sections of each garden gaining practical experience in all phases of work carried out at public gardens. They spent time propagating plants, operating landscaping equipment, using chemical weed controls, and installing new sprinklers and landscaping.

Besides giving the students hands-on experience, the extended internship program will assure the Arboretum grounds staff of a steady supply of eager assistants with basic horticultural training. Director Francis Ching said that cutbacks in county funds have forced the department to depend on privately financed programs like this one. Without the students, the staff would find it increasingly difficult to maintain and improve plant collections that the public expects to find at the Arboretum.

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION SEEKS SPECIAL BENEFACTORS

THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION recently established a new membership category called Special Benefactor as part of its continuing effort to reverse the effects that inadequate funding could cause at the Arboretum.

Committee chairmen Betty (Mrs. Sidney) Wall and Peter Bickford explained that to be recognized as a Special Benefactor a donor must be willing to contribute $1,000 annually for use on a specific project.

Besides all the privileges of Foundation membership, Special Benefactors will be honored in Foundation publications and will be entitled to private guided tours of the Arboretum upon request. This June, members of the group will be guests at a catered luncheon, the first of the annual parties planned exclusively for them.

———

ADOPTION FANTASY FIESTA

MOVIE STARS, broadcast personalities, and county officials abounded at the Latino Adoption Fiesta Sept. 12 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, but the real stars of the day were 53 Latino children awaiting adoption.

The children were special guests at the festival planned by the Los Angeles County Department of Adoptions to bring hard-to-place adoptees and approved families waiting for a child together in an informal atmosphere. As the children and prospective parents got to know each other some unexpected bonds developed. One couple who had originally applied to adopt an infant girl were so charmed by four brothers that they asked to have the boys placed in their home. Helen Ramirez, director of CDA, also reported that more than 70 people began the necessary adoption procedings during the fiesta.

The party began with everyone munching hot dogs and popcorn while they enjoyed the clowns and mariachi band. Master of ceremonies, Sonny Melendrez from KFI radio, introduced the children and coaxed from each a glimpse of his or her distinct personality.

Everyone, children and adults alike, crowded around the stage in front of the Queen Anne Cottage to hear the childhood memories related by Ricardo Montalban and Herve Villechaize from the television series "Fantasy Island" and by France Nuyen who starred in "South Pacific."

Later, the many individuals and organizations who contributed so much to the success of the fiesta received scrolls from L.A. County Supervisors Deane Dana and Michael D. Antonovich.

Arboretum Weather Summary October 1, 1980 to September 30, 1981

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Average maximum temperature	84	76	74	70	74	71	77	78	92	92	94	88
Average minimum temperature	55	47	46	47	47	47	51	56	62	62	63	61
Highest temperature	102	92	87	80	90	82	97	94	107	102	108	98
Lowest temperature	45	40	39	38	38	41	42	49	57	58	57	55
Number of clear days	10	10	18	14	17	10	8	8	20	22	25	14
Number of partly cloudy days	21	19	10	9	3	4	12	22	10	9	6	16
Number of cloudy days	0	1	3	7	8	7	10	1	0	0	0	0
Rain each month	.1	0	.47	1.66	1.24	5.26	.71	Tr	0	0	0	0

Total rainfall for year 9.44 inches

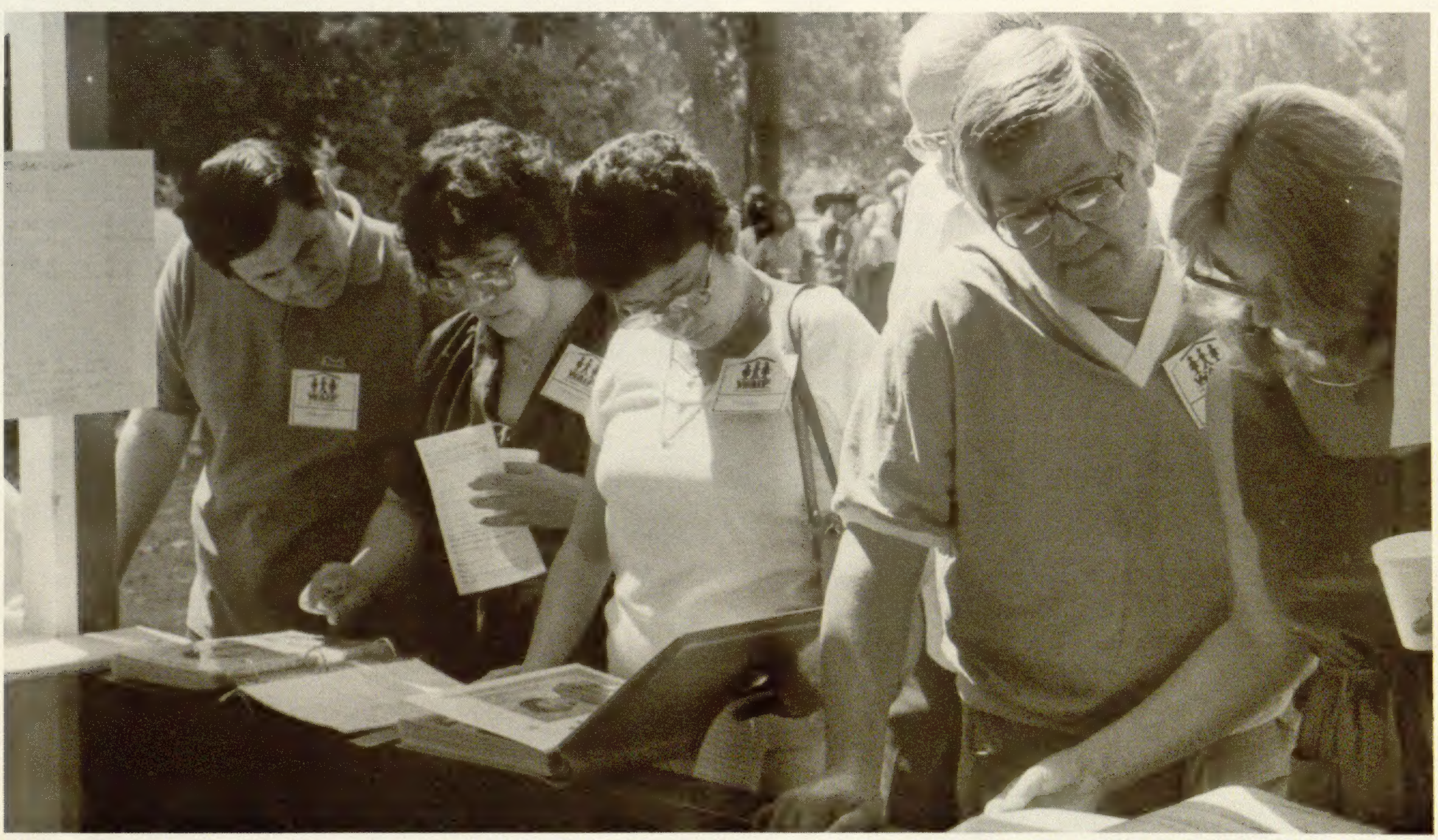
Average annual rainfall 18 inches

June-December longest below normal rainfall period in recorded history.

Lat. 34 deg. 08′ 48″ N., Long. 118 deg. 02′ 59″ W., Elevation 571.28 ft.

From left, Director Francis Ching, Helen Ramirez of CDA, Denny Shane Miller of WAIF, and Sonny Melendrez of KFI gather for a Fiesta planning meeting.

Ricardo Montalban (left), France Nuyen, and Sonny Melendrez applaud as Herve Villechaize entertains at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.



More than 70 prospective parents took the first steps toward adopting children during Latino Adoption Fiesta Sept. 12 at the Arboretum.

RIGHT *Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Oropeza (back row, right) receive an award from Ricardo Montalban honoring them for adopting seven siblings. Their children are, from left, Roberto, Marielena, Raquel, Sandra, Sylvia, Graciella, Analillia, and Veronica standing in front.*

BELOW *A pensive clown decorates the faces of her willing subjects with stars, comets, and smiles.*

(LASCA continues after page 36)

QUEEN ANNE FROLIC

ELABORATE PLUMED HATS bobbing among the crowd at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum Sept. 18 added an extra fillip of light-hearted nostalgia to the Queen Anne Frolic. For the first time since the inauguration of the biennial event, guests were encouraged to wear turn-of-the-century costumes. Many took the suggestion seriously. Twenty people entered the costume contest, the ladies in sweeping skirts trimmed with ribbons and embroidery to complement their hats and the men in jaunty straw boaters, black bowlers, and stove pipe hats topping off their vintage suits.

More than 800 guests, whether in or out of period costume, enjoyed guided tours through the Queen Anne Cottage and trips around the grounds in horse-drawn surreys and antique automobiles.

Chairman Jo (Mrs. Herbert) Iske attributed much of the success of the 1981 event to the dedicated work of the Las Voluntarias committee members and nine major patrons. Those donating $1,000 to the Frolic were Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Larson, Mrs. Thomas Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Rapp, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ray, Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin T. Stafford, Dr. Bonnie Templeton, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Wall, and the Los Angeles Turf Club, Inc.

Guests at the table of Board of Trustees member Mrs. Thomas Lowry, a patron of the Queen Anne Frolic, came dressed for a Gay '90s party. Mrs. Lowry and her escort, Max Smith, were judged the most authentically dressed couple.

CAF past president Ruth Mary (Mrs. Leland) Larson.

Dr. and Mrs. Gary Overturf, James Farrar, Frolic chairman Jo (Mrs. Herbert) Iske, and Mr. and Mrs. John Llewellyn enjoy the party.

Costume judge, Jean (Mrs. John) Atkinson (left) gives the most authentic costume award to Irene (Mrs. Ken) Adams wearing her grandmother's finery.

Frolic guests toured in carriages and antique automobiles.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Simpson are perfectly attired for a Baldwin era party.

British guests, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Cowling, (left) watch as Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Wall receive a plaque honoring them as Frolic patrons from Elaine (Mrs. John) Hoffman.

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Ayres Jr. enjoy the Arboretum he helped found.

The "Magic Touch" quartet entertains guests with barbershop harmonies as dusk settles over the Queen Anne Cottage mall.

CALENDAR

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 1982

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

JANUARY 3 thru 10 —
Weekdays 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Weekends 9 to 4:30 p.m.
Japanese Natural Art Show
San Gabriel Valley Suiseki Club and the Saikei Society of Southern California**

JANUARY 23, 24 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
"Winter Silhouettes" Bonsai Show
Baiko-en Bonsai Society**

FEBRUARY 13, 14 —
Saturday 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Camellia Show
Temple City Camellia Society**

MARCH 6, 7 — Saturday 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Flower Show
Girl Scouts of America**

MARCH 27 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Environmental Education Fair
Hosted by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum

**Cosponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation

DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

JANUARY 9 — 12 noon to 4 p.m.
Rose pruning demonstration
Pacific Rose Society**

FEBRUARY 27, 28 —
Saturday 12 noon to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Camellia Show
Southern California Camellia Council**

MARCH 20, 21 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Daffodil Show
Southern California Daffodil Society**

**Cosponsored by Descanso Gardens Guild

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

JANUARY 3 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Fruit tree pruning demonstration
South Coast Botanic Garden staff*

JANUARY 10 — 2 p.m.
Film tour of Australia
Mary Lou Steinmetz*

JANUARY 17 — 2 p.m.
Talk, wildflower ancestors of garden favorites
Mrs. Ray H. Raymond*

JANUARY 24 — 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Rose pruning demonstration
South Coast Rose Society**

JANUARY 30, 31 —
Saturday 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Camellia Show
South Coast Camellia Society**

FEBRUARY 7 — 2 p.m.
Talk on lawn care
Tim Stanton, Ark Gardens*

FEBRUARY 14 — 2 p.m.
Collection of succulents from Somalia
Frank H. Horwood, Abbey Gardens*

FEBRUARY 21 — 2 p.m.
Fuchsia pruning demonstration
South Coast Fuchsia Society**

FEBRUARY 28 — 2 p.m.
Talk on cymbidium orchids
Bill Bailey*

MARCH 7 — 12 noon to 4:30 p.m.
African violet culture demonstration
Ralph Breden*

MARCH 14 — 2 p.m.
Gemstones and fossils of Palos Verdes Peninsula
Beach Cities Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society**

MARCH 21 — 2 p.m.
Biblical herbs discussion
South Bay Herb Society**

MARCH 28 — 2 p.m.
Plants from Hawaii for your garden
Southern California Horticultural Institute**

*Sponsored by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

**Cosponsored by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation